FAttorney Docket # 3029-74RCE

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Yasuhiro SAKAI et al.

Serial No.:

10/005,753

JAN-1 7. 2006

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Filed: October 29, 2001

Method of Staining, and Detecting and Counting

Bacteria, and a Diluent for Bacterial Stain

Examiner: F. C. Prats Group Art: 1651

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 13, 2006 (Date of Deposit)

Kent H. Cheng

Name of applicant, a

Signature

January 13, 2006

Date of Signature

Mail Stop Amendment AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

DNOT ENTERIES In response to the Final Office Action dated November 22, 2005, please amend the aboveidentified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.